

**Wetland/Riparian Policy**  
Deadline: 4/19/07, 12 noon

Linda V. Elkind  
14 Hawk View St.  
Portola Valley, CA, 94028

Chairperson Tam Doduc and Board Members  
C/o Song Her, Clerk to the Board  
Executive Office  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

April 16, 2007

Re: Proposed Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy

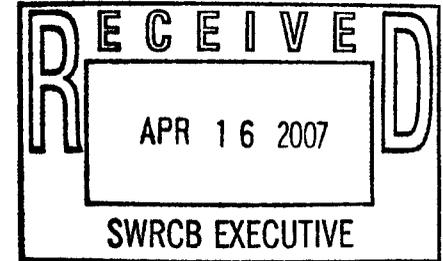
Dear Chairperson Tam Doduc and Board Members,

I have studied the benefits derived from wetlands, streams and riparian areas for over 20 years in both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County and am currently, as a member of the Portola Valley Planning Commission, working to pass a local ordinance to protect our town's creek sides from further improper development.

For all these years I have watched creeks as I travel and have read scientific papers. There is no question that healthy wetlands, streams and riparian areas benefit not only the critters that depend on them for their food and shelter, but also the people who abut or live down stream from the wetlands or streams or riparian areas. Santa Clara County uses its creeks to recharge and store ground water. The role of wetlands (free from dikes and buildings) has a well-known historic role to absorb and reduce the risk of flooding. Song birds, especially the shy and least adapted to humans, depend on the Riparian areas for migration food and as habitat. Finally, even in Portola Valley, Steelhead live in some of our streams.

Historically, California has lost much more than 90% of its wetlands and Riparian areas. The loss continues at an accelerated rate due to the current federal Administrations and the Court's decision to weaken protection of these important resources.

Thank you for developing a "Wetland and Riparian Area Protection Policy". Please make it a strong one by identifying Alternative 4 as your preferred Alternative in the DEIR. This alternative will do more to protect



wetlands and riparian areas than the other alternatives that open gaps in protections.

I hope that you will adopt the protection policy by the end of 2007. The longer we wait, the more we lose and there is so little left.

Sincerely,



Linda Elkind